

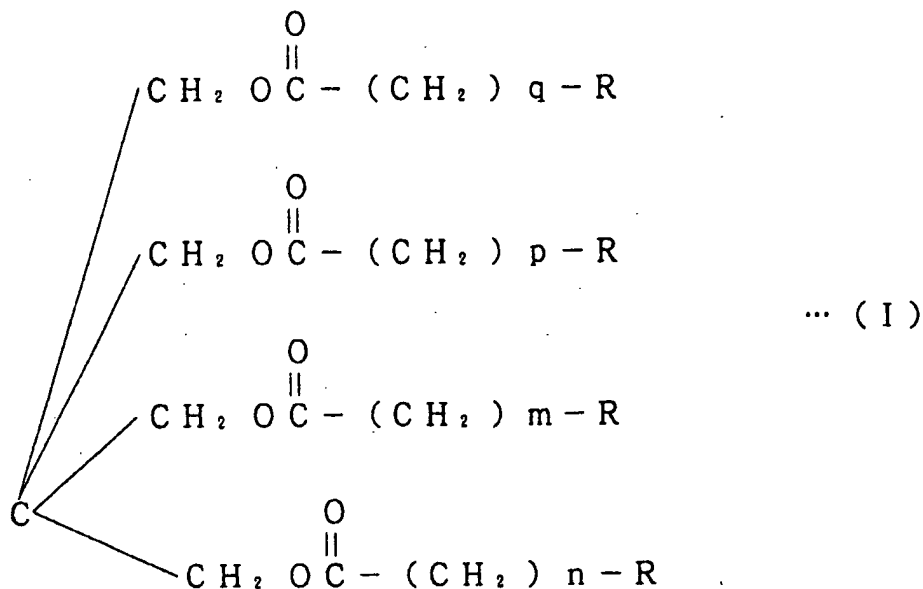
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner comprising a binder resin and a colorant, which is used in electrophotographic process employing a flash fixing system for fixation of a transferred toner image, wherein

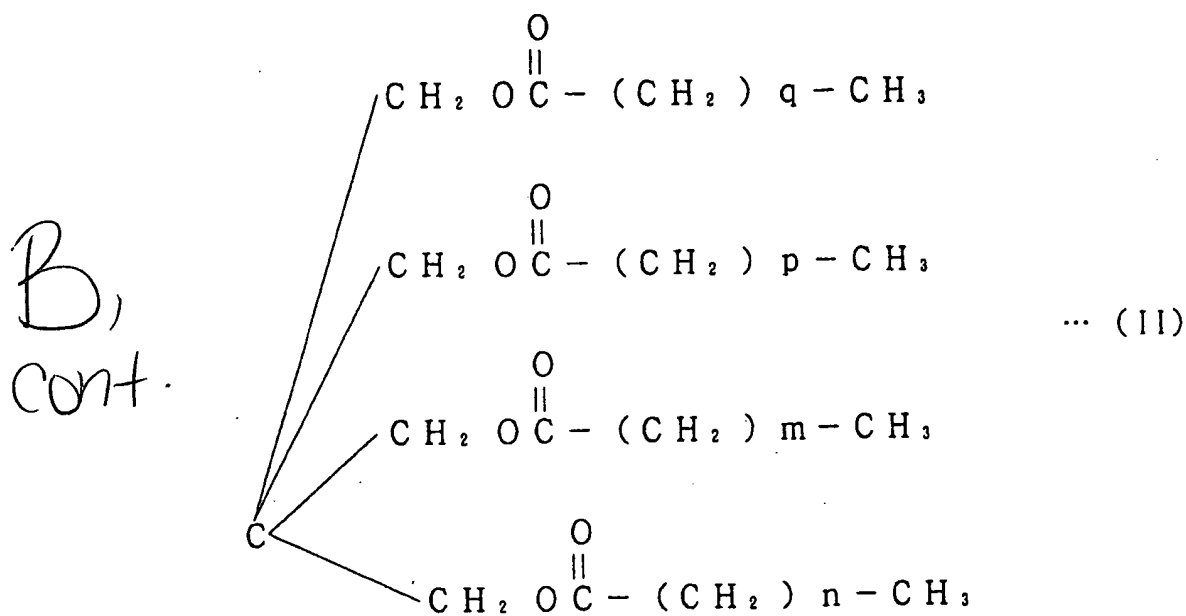
the binder resin is a polyester resin which partially contains a chloroform-insoluble content;
and

the toner contains a polypropylene resin and an ester type resin which contains an ester component represented by the following formula (I):



wherein p, q, m and n each represents a positive integer of 16 to 22 and R may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

2. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 1, wherein the ester component [type resin] (I) is represented by the following formula (II):



wherein p, q, m and n are as defined above, and the ester type resin has a weight-average molecular weight within a range from 1,350 to 1,450.

3. (Original) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 1, wherein the number-average molecular weight of the polypropylene resin is 5,000 or more.

4. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 1, wherein the ester type resin [(I)] contains, as a principal component, a component which has a molecular weight distribution within a range from 1,200 to 1,500 in a molecular weight distribution as determined by mass spectrometric analysis and also has one peak in the range, while an ionization efficiency of a component having a molecular weight within a range from 1,420 to 1,430 is 45% or more and an ionization efficiency of a component having a molecular weight of 1,350 or less is 10% or more.

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5. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 1, which contains the chloroform-insoluble content of the polyester resin in the amount within a range from 50 to 95% by weight based on the total weight of the toner, the polypropylene resin in the amount within a range from 0.1 to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the toner, and the ester type resin [(I)] in the amount within a range from 0.5 to 15% by weight based on the total weight of the toner.

6. (Withdrawn)

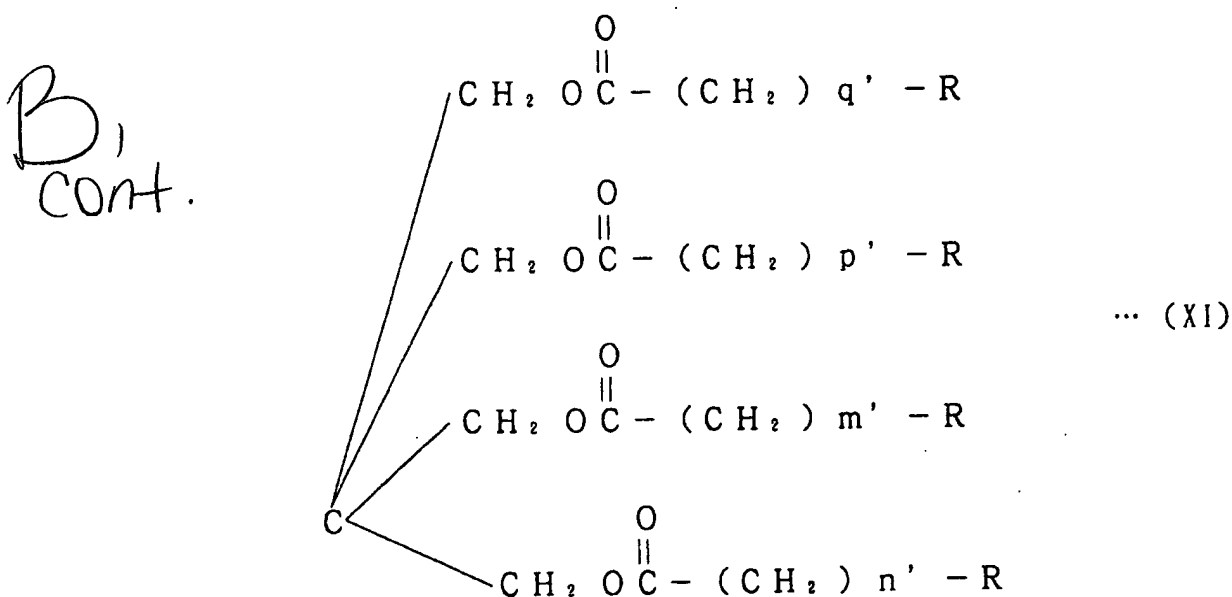
7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Withdrawn)

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner comprising a binder resin and a colorant, which is used in electrophotographic process employing a flash fixing system for fixation of a transferred toner image, wherein

the binder resin is a polyester resin which contains an ester component represented by the following formula (XI):

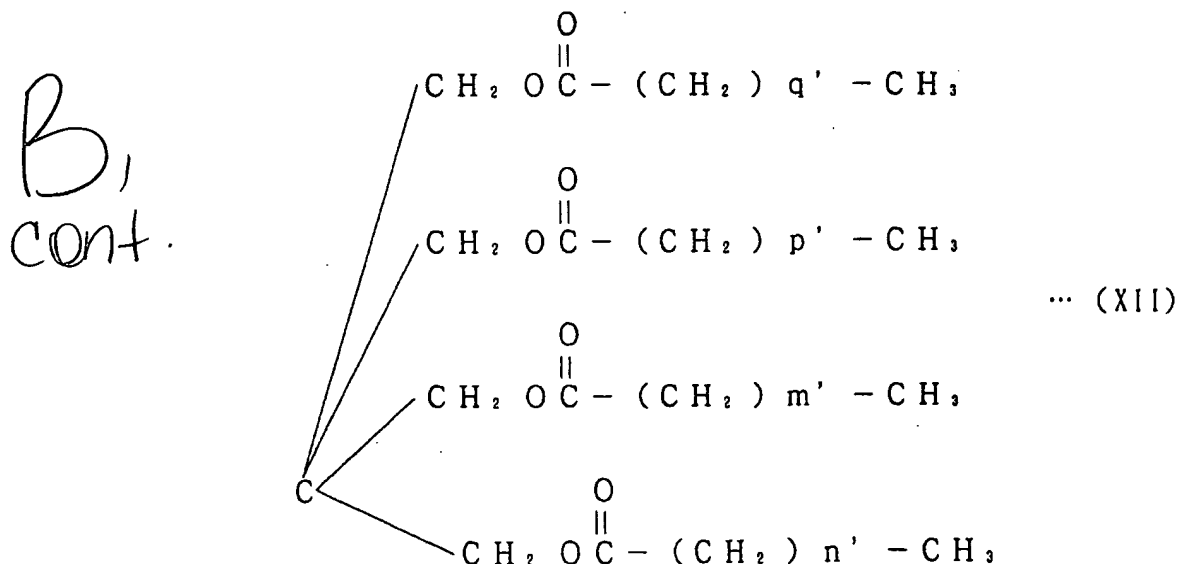


wherein p', q', m' and n' each represents a positive integer of 16 to 30 and R may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

and contains at least a chloroform-insoluble content; and

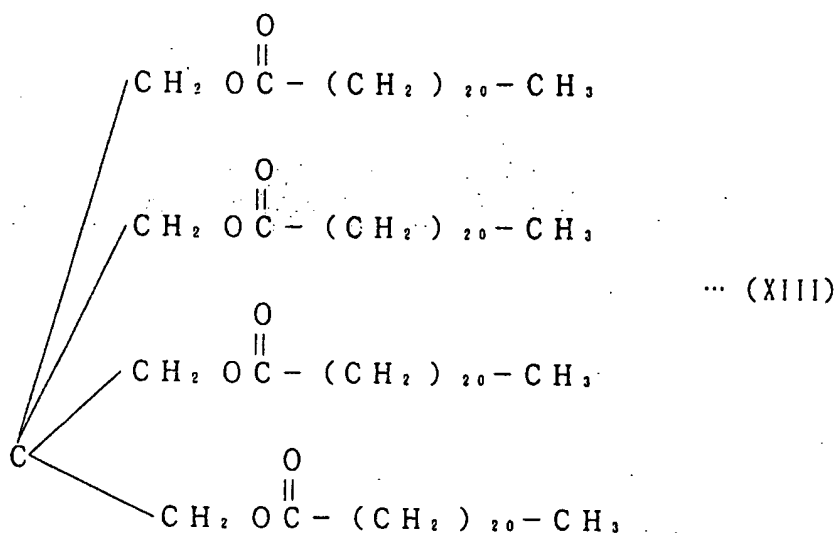
the toner optionally contains an ester type resin which contains an ester component represented by the above formula (XI).

11. (Original) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 10, wherein the ester component (XI) is represented by the following formula (XII):



wherein p', q', m' and n' are as defined above, and has a weight-average molecular weight within a range from 1,200 to 2,200.

12. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 11, wherein the ester component (XII) is represented by the following formula [(VIII).] (XIII):



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13. (Original) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 10, wherein the ester component (XI) is introduced in the step of polymerizing the polyester resin.

14. (Original) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 10, in which said polyester resin contains the ester component (XI) in the amount within a range from 0.1 to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the toner and the chloroform-insoluble content in the amount within a

range from 3 to 20% by weight based on the total weight of the toner.

15. (Original) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 10, wherein in said polyester resin, the ester component (XI) contains, as a principal component, a component which has a molecular weight distribution within a range from 1,200 to 2,200 in a molecular weight distribution as determined by mass spectrometric analysis and also has at least one maximum peak in the range, while an ionization efficiency of the maximum peak is 45% or more based on the entire component.

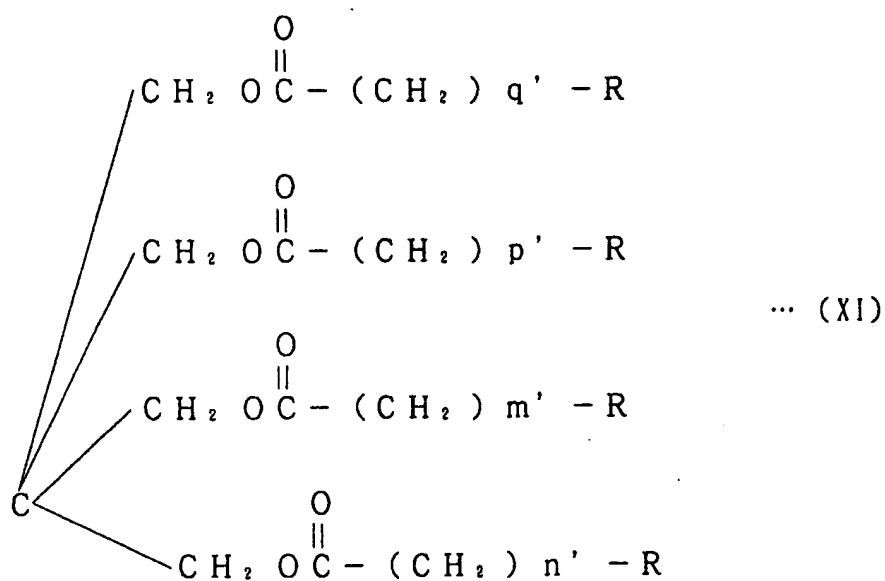
16. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner according to any one of claims 10 to 15, which contains [the] a polypropylene resin in the amount within a range from 0.1 to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the toner.

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17. (Original) An electrophotographic toner according to claim 16, wherein the number-average molecular weight of the polypropylene resin is 5,000 or more.

18. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner comprising a binder resin and a colorant, which is used in electrophotographic process employing a flash fixing system for fixation of a transferred toner image, wherein

the binder resin is a polyester resin which contains an ester component represented by the following formula (XI):



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wherein p', q', m' and n' each represents a positive integer of 16 to 30 and R may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and contains at least a chloroform-insoluble content;

the polyester resin contains at least a resin containing the ester component of the formula (XI) in the amount of 10% by weight or more; and

the toner optionally contains an ester type resin which contains an ester component represented by the formula (XI).

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

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